

# Passing the torch

JADE BATE

GAIL Kenyon has been announced as the newest president of the Swan Hill Rotary Club, after the club's annual changeover dinner was held on June 29.

Ms Kenyon has been a member of the club for 12 years and has previously held the presidential role in 2013/2014.

She got involved with Rotary after deciding she wanted to make a difference in the community.

"I got into it purely for community reasons; I wanted to give back," Ms Kenyon said.

"They're a fantastic group of people to work with; it's kind of like being a part of a big family."

She has also been recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow — one of the highest honours in the Rotary Foundation.

"It was an honour because it meant Rotary was acknowledging the work that I'd done for both the club and the community," she said.

Last year, Ms Kenyon visited South Korea with fellow club member Marie Schlemme to represent Swan Hill at the International Rotary Convention.

"That was fantastic and a real honour," she said.

Ms Kenyon said she was excited to get started in her role as president and hoped to focus on a range of topics.

"Like the Sunrise Rotary Club, one of our main focuses is with youth and we have been very involved with the FLO school," she said.

"We have our monthly market

which is one of our best fundraising activities.

"Another wonderful activity is Books for Beginners, where we read books to preps at local schools.

"Then at the end of each year we give out books to them."

Each year Rotary International decide on a theme for all clubs around the world to focus on.

"Depending on the theme of the year, you get a big choice as to which direction you want to take the club," she said.

The theme for 2017/2018 is "Rotary making a difference."

"We're lucky enough to have an Australian, Ian Riseley (of the Sandringham Rotary Club) as International president this year," she said.

"The challenge Mr Riseley has put out to clubs around the world is to plant a tree for every Rotarian around the world and to focus on sustainability.

"I'm looking at great idea for the challenge and I am 99 per cent sure that it will come to fruition."

Ms Kenyon said the club was always looking for new members.

"We have just under 40 members at the moment and would love more," she said.

The Swan Hill Rotary Club meet each Thursday evening at the Swan Hill Club from 6pm to 7.30pm.

People are welcome to either turn up to the meeting or RSVP.

If you are interested in learning more about Swan Hill Rotary Club, contact Gail Kenyon on 0418 500 003.



Swan Hill Rotary Club outgoing president Rodney Bishop and incoming president Gail Kenyon. **Picture: PAMELA BLACKMAN**

## Rotary Club seek Meals on Wheels volunteers

**ONE** of Swan Hill Rotary Club's proudest community contributions is its role in the local Meals on Wheels program.

The club organises all the rosters and volunteers for the program, which is run through Swan Hill District Health.

Incoming Rotary Club president Gail Kenyon said the club were desperately seeking volunteers for the program.

"At the moment we have nine permanent spots that require fill-

ing," she said. "Because we have two people go on each round, that means we are 18 volunteers short."

Ms Kenyon said the club would love more support from local businesses for workers.

"If a business could let their workers take an hour out their day to volunteer each month, that would make a huge difference," she said.

She said the Meals on Wheels program was a very valued ser-

vice to the community. "Sometimes when you drop off a meal, you're the only person the recipient sees all day," she said.

"It's not just about the meals, it's also the social aspect.

"A smile and a chat can make all the difference."

Meals on Wheels rounds take usually around an hour and half to complete.

If you are interested in helping out, contact the Swan Hill Rotary Club.

## Fishing comp creates chances for children

MEAGAN MCGREGOR

THE Lions and Rotary clubs of Swan Hill presented the Chances for Children Program with a \$4000 cheque from the proceeds raised by their annual Fishing Classic competition at Pental Island in March.

The two clubs joined together to host the 13th event and drew more than 150 fisherman from across the state to a two day boat only event.

The \$4000 raised was handed over last week and will be used to support young people to achieve their ambitions.

Although administrated from Mildura, the funds will be directly targeted to a Swan Hill recipient.

Chances For Children provide financial and personal support to young people of the Mallee to assist them to reach their potential in edu-



Rotary's Murray Ray, Mallee Family Care's George Mudford, Swan Hill Toyota's Rebecca Parseghian and Lion David McCallum at the handing over of the cheque to Chances for Children last week.

cational, sporting and cultural pursuits. The program aims to ensure that a young person's capacity to achieve

their goal is not disadvantaged by rural isolation, financial constraints and lack of support.

## Water safety improvement target

MEMBER for Murray Adrian Piccoli said applications are now open for organisations in the region to improve water safety in the community and help prevent drownings throughout NSW.

"Whether kayaking on a lake or river, out on a boat or taking a dip in the backyard swimming pool, it's important to recognise that where there's water, there's danger," Mr Piccoli said.

"I urge local community-based organisations that run water safety initiatives to apply for funding."

The Water Safety Fund Community Grants Program will prioritise initiatives that target high-risk groups and locations, identified in research undertaken by Royal Life Saving Society Australia for the government.

This includes projects that focus on:

- Encouraging parents to actively supervise their children around water;
- Changing the risk-taking behaviour of men;
- Highlighting the dangers of swimming at unpatrolled locations; and

• Educating Aboriginal communities, CALD communities, and international visitors.

Grants range from \$25,000 to \$250,000, and collaborative projects between water safety and community organisations will be given precedence.

"Let's work together to make the 2017/18 summer season a safe one," Mr Piccoli concluded.

Applications for the Water Safety Fund Community Grants Program close on August 4.